

[4910-13]

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 129**

**[Docket No. FAA-1998-4758; Notice No. 98-17]**

**RIN 2120-AG13**

**Security Programs of Foreign Air Carriers**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA announces an extension of the comment period for an additional 60 days on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM; No. 98-17), which was published in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 1998. In that NPRM, the FAA invites public comments on amending the existing airplane operator security rules for foreign air carriers and foreign operators of U.S. registered aircraft. The comment period is being extended in response to requests received from the British government and Air Canada to provide additional time to review the transcript of the public meeting held on February 24, 1999, in Washington, DC. The extension of the comment period also is being granted in response to comments made at the public meeting by commenters who requested additional time to prepare cost estimates for the NPRM.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on Notice 98-17 should be submitted in duplicate to: U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-1998-4758, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room Plaza 401, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet address: 9-NPRM-CMTS@faa.gov. Comments may be filed and/or examined in Room Plaza 401 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays except Federal holidays.

Comments that include or reference national security information or sensitive security information should not be submitted to the public docket. These comments should be sent to the following address in a manner consistent with applicable requirements and procedures for safeguarding sensitive security information (questions on these procedures may be directed to Moira A. Lozada, see “FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT”): Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Civil Aviation Security Operations, Attention: FAA Security Control Point, Docket No. FAA-1998-4758, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Moira A. Lozada, Office of Civil Aviation Security Policy and Planning, Civil Aviation Security Division (ACP-100), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-5961.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Comments Invited**

Interested persons are invited to participate in the rulemaking proposed in Notice 98-17 by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments relating to the environmental, energy, federalism, or economic impact that might result from adopting the proposals in this document are also invited. Substantive comments should be accompanied by cost estimates.

Comments should identify the regulatory docket or notice number and be submitted in duplicate to the Rules Docket (see “ADDRESSES”). All comments received on or before the closing date for comments specified will be considered by the Administrator before taking action on this proposed rulemaking. The proposals contained in this document may be changed in response to comments received. Comments received on this proposal will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. However, the Assistant Administrator has determined that air carrier security programs required by parts 108 and

129 contain sensitive security information. As such, the availability of information pertaining to airport security programs is governed by 14 CFR Part 191 (Withholding Security Information from Disclosure Under the Air Transportation Security Act of 1974).

A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to the Docket No. FAA-1998-4758." The postcard will be date-stamped and mailed to the commenter.

Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the Security Programs of Foreign Air Carriers proposed rule should contact Elizabeth Allen at the address or telephone number provided in "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."

Internet users may reach the FAA's webpage at <http://www.faa.gov> or the **Federal Register's** webpage at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs) to access recently published rulemaking documents.

An electronic copy of these documents may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the FAA regulations section of the Fedworld electronic bulletin board service (telephone: (703) 321-3339) or the **Federal Register's** electronic bulletin board service (telephone: (202) 512-1661).

The closing date for comments on this proposal is May 24, 1999.

## **Background**

The FAA will extend the comment period for Security Programs of Foreign Air Carriers to provide additional time for interested parties to comment on the proposal. This extension is being granted in response to requests from the international community to allow more time to review the transcript of the public meeting held on February 24, 1999, and to prepare cost estimates for the NPRM.

**Extension of Comment Period**

The FAA has reviewed the requests for consideration of an extended comment period for Notice 98-17 and determined that an extension would be in the public interest and that good cause exists for taking this action. Accordingly, the comment period for Notice 98-17 is extended for an additional sixty days, as identified under the caption

**DATES.**

Issued in Washington, DC on March 18, 1999.

**Quinten Johnson**

Acting Director, Office of Civil Aviation Security Policy and Planning.